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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 17 August 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the decisions of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe adopted at its fifteenth session, on 13 and 14 August 1992 (annexes I-IV).

I would be most grateful if you could kindly have the text of the present letter and of the enclosed decisions of the Committee of Senior Officials distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 69, 75 and 98 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eduard KUKAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/47/150.

ANNEX I

Decisions of the Committee of Senior Officials

1. The Committee of Senior Officials met on 13 and 14 August 1992 at an urgently called meeting to consider further steps required to deal with the worsening aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina and other critical aspects of the crisis in other parts of the former Yugoslavia.

2. There was consensus among participating States that the worsening crisis requires greater action within the context of the CSCE. They expressed their determination to fully apply the decisions of the Helsinki Summit in order to help alleviate humanitarian problems and support the search for peace. In particular they agreed to despatch a rapporteur mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina to investigate the humanitarian situation with special reference to detention camps and to send long-duration missions to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina. They also agreed that the presence of observers in neighbouring countries would help to avoid a spillover of tension to their territories and would help oversee the fulfilment of United Nations sanctions.

3. The discussions reflected the alarming developments which have occurred since approval of the Declaration on the Yugoslav crisis by Heads of State and Government at the Helsinki Summit on 10 July 1992.

- Despite repeated promises by Serbian authorities, a lasting ceasefire has not been possible. Humanitarian convoys are regularly subject to military attack; heavy artillery continues to bombard Sarajevo and other cities of Bosnia-Herzegovina and some bordering cities in Croatia.

- Evidence has continued to mount that Serbian authorities are using the conflict to carry out disgraceful policies of so-called "ethnic cleansing" and detention of innocent civilians. Cases of human rights and international humanitarian law violations have been registered on all sides of the conflict. Treatment of those held in detention camps violates all standards of decency. The number of refugees continues to rise to tragic levels.

- Human rights abuses by Serbian authorities continue at a high level. Serbian Government-controlled media subject the Serbian population to a constant barrage of hate and xenophobia. Repression of the non-Serbian population in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina and elsewhere continues. Tensions in these areas are high and the danger of the spread of armed conflict continues to grow.

- Continued conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina raises the danger of spillover of tensions to neighbouring countries. Serbia continues to seek avenues for evasion of United Nations sanctions.

4. The participating States agreed that the crisis has entered a new phase which will require even more co-operation and concerted action throughout the international community. They reiterated their rejection of any aspiration of Serbia and Montenegro, or of any other party involved, to change borders or ethnic composition by force or intimidation. They reaffirmed the need to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

5. The outrage that resulted from revelations about detention camps underlines the sense of anger felt everywhere about the catastrophe which is taking place.

6. Serbian authorities must understand that they are isolating themselves increasingly from the democratic community of States represented by the CSCE. Continued violation of the basic norms of international humanitarian law can lead only to disaster for themselves and their people.

7. The participating States welcomed the intention of the United Nations to expand its activities in the former Yugoslavia. They expressed strong support for United Nations Security Council resolution 770 which foresees the use of all necessary measures to guarantee humanitarian assistance and for United Nations Security Council resolution 771 on war crimes, which holds Serbian leaders and others personally responsible for their behaviour. They intend to co-operate closely with the United Nations and to provide assistance to the fulfilment of United Nations goals wherever possible. They request the Chairman-in-Office to reply in that spirit to the letter of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 31 July 1992. They decided to start consultations on matters referred to in the letter of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in an open-ended ad hoc group established in Vienna.

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8. They underlined once again the imperative need for an urgent negotiated political solution in the former Yugoslavia. In that respect they welcomed the Conference hosted by the European Community and the United Nations in London on 26 August 1992 as a means of carrying forward negotiation and achieving a lasting settlement to the crisis. They requested the Chairman-in-Office to present decisions of the CSCE at this meeting and to determine how the CSCE process can be used to further the goals of this Conference.

9. The Meeting was preceded by a working session of the Steering Group on the Yugoslav crisis of 11 participating States established at the 13th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials on 8 July 1992. The participating States agree that more detailed work is now necessary and that more frequent meetings of the Steering Group are needed. To this end they decided that the Steering Group should meet in Vienna as from now until the next CSO Meeting scheduled to be held in Prague on 16-18 September 1992. The Steering Group will assist the Chairman-in-Office in the implementation of today's decisions further to the tasks already assigned to it on 8 July 1992. While operating in Vienna the Steering Group will maintain a liaison with the Consultative Committee of the Conflict Prevention Centre.

10. The participating States also welcomed the intention of the Chairman-in-Office, accompanied by representatives of the Troika, to travel to the former Yugoslavia within the next few days. They asked him to transmit the strong political message contained in this decision document to Serbian authorities and to undertake any discussion that may expedite its implementation.

ANNEX II

Draft Decision on Human Rights Situation

The Committee of Senior Officials,

Remaining very deeply concerned about the failure by the Serbian authorities to observe human rights and international humanitarian law, and especially by the disgraceful practice of "ethnic cleansing",

Outraged by the existence of detention camps, which is completely unacceptable,

Aware of the acute danger of an even more rapid increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons, which is already approaching two million,

Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 771, and the decision by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur on this issue,

Underlines the importance of observing international humanitarian law;

Demands an end to the practice of "ethnic cleansing";

Demands the immediate disbandment of any detention camps, and the release of the innocent civilian population held there;

Reminds all responsible for the administration of such camps that, in the meantime, they must ensure that such places of detention are run humanely, in full respect for the Geneva Conventions;

Reminds all those who commit or order the commission of breaches of the Conventions that they bear individual responsibility for such breaches;

Calls on the Serbian authorities to create all necessary conditions to enable the earliest possible return of the refugees and displaced persons to their original homes in conditions of safety and dignity, including the adoption of an amnesty law for those having refused to fight, and an end to the call-up;

Considers that an initial step in this direction could be the establishment of safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina, under international control;

Decides, further to United Nations Security Council resolutions 770 and 771, to request that the Chairman-in-Office establish contact with the United Nations and other relevant international organisations to undertake an urgent examination of conditions for possible establishment of safe havens for refugees and displaced persons in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Decides to establish a rapporteur mission to investigate allegations of human rights abuses; its primary task should be, in close co-ordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, to ensure that all alleged places of detention are inspected within the shortest possible time; the CSCE rapporteur mission, in common with other international bodies, should be guaranteed immediate, free and continuous access to all such places of detention;

Requests the Chairman-in-Office to establish the rapporteur mission as soon as possible; its first report should be available to the Committee of Senior Officials at its next meeting in September.

ANNEX III

Decision on Missions of Long Duration

The Committee of Senior Officials,

With reference to:

- the Declaration on Yugoslavia adopted by the Helsinki Summit;

- the Committee of Senior Officials' Decision of 10 June 1992 to send an exploratory mission to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina;

- the conclusions and recommendations in the report submitted to the Committee of Senior Officials by this mission;

- Chapter III, paragraphs 6-11, in the Helsinki Decisions on the political management of crises, and

In support of the efforts of the Conference on Yugoslavia,

Decides to establish, in co-operation with the relevant authorities, a continuous presence in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, in the form of missions of long duration.

The missions will:

- promote dialogues between the authorities concerned and representatives of the populations and communities in the three regions;

- collect information on all aspects relevant to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote solutions to such problems;

- establish contact points for solving problems that might be identified;

- assist in providing information on relevant legislation on human rights, protection of minorities, free media and democratic elections.

The missions should be sent out as soon as possible in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of Chapter III of the Helsinki Decisions. Further elaboration of modalities is delegated to the Steering Group on Yugoslavia established by the Committee of Senior Officials on 8 July 1992.

The operational control of the missions will be maintained by the Chairman-in-Office assisted by the other members of the CSCE Troika and with practical support from the appropriate CSCE institution(s).

Except where provided on a voluntary basis, the expenses of the missions will be borne by all participating States in accordance with the scale of distribution.

Developments regarding the missions will be reported to the Committee of Senior Officials not later than at its regular September 1992 Meeting.

ANNEX IV

Decision on the Presence of Observers in Countries Bordering on Serbia and Montenegro

The CSO welcomes the efforts under way to extend the European Community Monitoring Mission to neighbouring countries of Serbia and Montenegro to help avoid the spread of tension to their territory. It decided to examine possibilities for contribution of material support to this effort. It welcomed the agreement with the authorities in Budapest to extend EC Monitoring Mission activities to Hungarian territory. It looks forward to the agreement on memoranda of understanding with authorities in Sofia and Tirana. Such missions can contribute to enhancing stability in the region. In this context, it decided to explore with authorities in Skopje the possibility of despatch of similar missions under CSCE auspices.

A further important task is to strengthen mechanisms to ensure full compliance with UN sanctions. The Chairman-in-Office is requested to undertake discussions to examine means of assisting appropriate States bordering on Serbia and Montenegro in this task, including through the placement of experts on their territories. The CSO will review the decision at its next meeting.